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The Canadian Reader

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FIVE NOVELS FROM
THE NEW COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CANADIAN LIBRARY

reviewed by Robert
Weaver page 4

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES
AUG 7 1961
LIBRARY SERVICE LIBRARY

VIEWS
page 6

AND REVIEWS

The Elements Combined
Susie's Babies / Greg's Choice
The Living Land page 7

MONEY AND HOW
TO SAVE IT

page 8

MOSSWORD
NUMBER TWO
page 9

SOCIAL
PURPOSE

FOR

CANADA

edited by Michael Oliver
reviewed by Peter Martin
page 2

PAST SELECTIONS
page 10

READERS' CLUB SELECTION

SOCIAL PURPOSE FOR CANADA

edited by Michael Oliver - reviewed by Peter Martin

Even the most addicted reader tapers off in August. In the cold winter months he will tackle anything, but August finds him reluctant to exercise his wits on any book more demanding than a gently-paced English who-dunit. What whim, therefore, leads the Readers' Club to entice its August members with as obviously serious a book as *Social Purpose for Canada*?

The answer lies not in whim but in history. August, 1961, is a most unusual August. Inevitably the verdict will come later, but every project suggests that this is a fateful summer for Canada. The Reports of the O'Leary and Bladen Royal Commissions mark crisis-points in our struggle for cultural and economic survival. The Coyne-Fleming dispute raises questions about rights and responsibilities in our evolving government-by-cabinet system which must be answered. And a brave new model of the Democratic Left is rolling off the CCF-CLC assembly line.

It is, of course, with the new version of the Democratic Left that *Social Purpose for Canada* concerns itself. And this new book, like the New Party, is a curiously interesting and exciting document even for the uncommitted.

The book follows a conscious historical precedent. In 1935, the League for Social Reconstruction brought out a book called *Social Planning for Canada*. There is no doubt that the new book is intended to give the same intellectual justification to the New Party that the former book did to the young CCF movement. Indeed, as Michael Oliver points out in his Preface, the link to the Thirties is even more direct; Professor F. R. Scott contributed then and he contributes now.

However, enjoyable as self-consciously historical behavior may be, *Social Purpose for Canada* must be judged on its own merits and on its own intentions. "Canadians," says Michael Oliver, "were being lulled into accepting a glitter of prosperity which covered a reality of purposelessness, mediocrity and inequity and which, moreover, dulled their awareness both of the dangers of a post-Hiroshima world and of its potentialities. Since the 1930's, works of social criticism had been rare in Canada, and the time seemed ripe for a new venture."

The new venture is a large book of almost five hundred pages containing seventeen essays by sixteen contributors (John Porter of Carleton University is represented twice). The essays are grouped into four major sections: Moral Issues, Social Problems, The Economy and Politics. With such a wide variety of topics and such a large number of contributors, it would be surprising if this book maintained an evenness of tone. It doesn't. But, unexpectedly, it does maintain what can be called an evenness of intention. Sixteen scholars, both academic and lay, write essays on widely diverse

subjects but manage, on the whole, to demonstrate a remarkable similarity of viewpoint.

The latter-day socialist — and most of these writers admit unashamedly that they are socialists writing about socialism — is a gentler, more humane creature than his Nineteenth Century predecessor. He appears here first and foremost as a humanist. Nationalization, for example, ceases to be a good in itself as it often appeared to earlier socialist thinkers, and becomes one of many possible means which might be used to move us along the path towards "social justice". Big business is not inherently evil, but it is to be condemned because it puts too much economic power in the hands of too few people — who are free to use their power irresponsibly. Education is seen both as a part of the humane goal and also as a necessary step in giving the people more substantial control over their own destinies.

This, then, is a new, more sophisticated kind of socialism. Sometimes it seems even a little bland. But this isn't all there is to the book: these writers are original, creative thinkers and *Social Purpose for Canada* is sprinkled with provocative ideas which may or may not have anything to do with socialism. Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, for example, shows real reverence for and understanding of Canadian federalism in an essay which flies in the face of venerable CCF dogma: "socialists in Canada have seldom been guided in their doctrine and their strategy by a whole-hearted acceptance of the basic political fact of federalism," but, argues Trudeau, "other things being equal, radicalism can more easily be introduced in a federal society than in a unitary one." And he makes a fascinating and largely new case for Canadian federalism.

In another place, Meyer Brownstone, Saskatchewan's Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, discusses Canadian agriculture in terms which seem far removed from the public position of many of Canada's farm organizations. He argues for a "policy of deliberate depopulation in agriculture", and believes that we must bow to the inevitable and only make the transition from rural to urban life easier for the less-productive elements of our farm population. He also argues, more traditionally, for nationalization of the farm supply industries.

These samplings have only hinted at the wealth of ideas — and factual information, too — which is to be found in this book. There is material here which will startle and annoy New Party men and free enterprisers alike. But the book as a whole represents a program for Canada's development which is worthy of the attention of every citizen. The book is bound to be influential within and without the New Party. It — like some of the other events of this eventful summer — will have an effect on Canada's future. It is well worth reading.

SOCIAL PURPOSE FOR CANADA is published by the University of Toronto Press. It contains seventeen essays in 472 pages. *Social Purpose for Canada* is published at \$7.95. Readers' Club members' price is \$6.25. NOTE: a paper-covered edition of *Social Purpose of Canada* is also available at \$4.95, shipping prepaid, for members who specifically request it.

AN ALTERNATE SELECTION

FIVE NOVELS FROM THE NEW CANADIAN LIBRARY

reviewed by Robert Weaver

The New Canadian Library is about the best thing that has happened in Canadian publishing since the end of the war. It is a true pocket book series — that is, the books will actually fit into most pockets — and it has been well designed by Frank Newfeld. More than twenty books are now available in this series, and they are reasonably priced. They get fairly wide distribution: through cigar stores, railway stations and airports as well as in traditional bookstores. In most respects the New Canadian Library has done what its publisher (McClelland & Stewart) and its general editor (Malcolm Ross) hoped that it might do.

The one real weakness of the series is that it doesn't include non-fiction of literary quality. This is easy to say of course; it isn't as easy to tell the editors what non-fiction they ought to publish. A collection of Hugh MacLennan's essays, perhaps? Farley Mowat's *Ordeal By Ice?* Some history, certainly — Donald Creighton on Sir John A. Macdonald, for example, and A. R. M. Lower's *Canadians in the Making*, and possibly William Kilbourn's *The Firebrand*.

But the editors have chosen to go with fiction, so this month we've selected five outstanding novels from the series to offer to members of the Readers' Club of Canada.

The Man From Glengarry. Ralph Connor, who was in real life the Reverend Charles Gordon, a Presbyterian minister, was the most popular and one of the most prolific novelists we have ever had in this country. He began almost by accident to write the colourful, romantic fiction that made him famous. Today he hasn't much reputation except as a writer of adventure tales for young people. Of all his books *The Man From Glengarry* is the most serious, and the New Canadian Library reprint of this study of pioneer life in Eastern Ontario should do much to bring about his rediscovery by adult readers.

Thirty Acres. Ringuet's novel from French Canada describes what might be called the late-pioneer era in Quebec Province. It was published in 1938, and two or three years later an English translation appeared but had few readers. It did much to destroy forever the traditional and sentimental novel of the soil in French Canada, and it was an important predecessor of the harsh fictions that have been published there since the war. *Thirty Acres* is the story of a farmer who tries, in the changing world of the twentieth century, to hold intact his land and the traditions of his people.

It is a tragedy of silence and solitude, and it is still one of the most impressive works of fiction to come out of French Canada.

The Master of the Mill. Frederick Philip Grove was a writer who protested too much, and many critics and writers today can find nothing good to say about him. His tragedy was that he was published out of his own time. If his books had begun to appear when they were first written, Grove might have had the influence in Canada that Frank Norris and Theodore Dreiser had in the United States. He was a crippled writer, but he remains a novelist of great ambition and power. *The Master of the Mill*, a study of three generations of a family and of the business that obsessed and destroyed them, is a book which occupies a unique position in Canadian fiction.

More Joy in Heaven. Morley Callaghan is the one Canadian novelist who belongs indisputably in the mainstream of contemporary fiction, and this novel is one of the two or three best books he has written. It is the story of a criminal, Kip Caley, who tries to rehabilitate himself, but who discovers that his legitimate ambitions and his own sense of himself are being distorted by the image people have created of him. Kip is a man in search of dignity and some essential innocence, and Mr. Callaghan describes the failure of that search with all the warmth and compassion that are the enduring qualities of a fine and subtle writer.

The Second Scroll. A. M. Klein's book is called a novel for want of a better way to describe it. It is one of the most unusual and puzzling books ever published in this country. It is a search for the Wandering Jew, a commentary on the fate of the Jews in the hostile modern world, and a kind of spiritual autobiography of the writer himself. Several different techniques are used to conduct the investigation: sometimes the book takes the form of a journal; it includes poems; it even contains a short play. It is the work of a passionate, suffering man of great learning.

A hammock-full of good reading for the late summer!

THE MAN FROM GLENGARRY by Ralph Connor, published at \$1.25. THIRTY ACRES by Ringuet, published at \$1.25. THE MASTER OF THE MILL by Frederick Philip Grove, published at \$1.25. MORE JOY IN HEAVEN by Morley Callaghan, published at \$1.00. THE SECOND SCROLL by A. M. Klein, published at \$1.00. Combined retail price of these five New Canadian Library novels published by McClelland & Stewart Limited is \$5.75. Readers' Club members' price for all five books is \$4.60. NOTE: if you do not wish to order all five titles, you may order one or more of them at the regular retail price, shipping prepaid.

VIEWS

What can we say about the Report of the O'Leary Commission? Not very much. Partly because almost everything seems to have been said already — in special inserts in *Time* as well as in less immediately interested quarters. And partly also because two of the authorities whose opinions we most respect on matters such as these seem to be at loggerheads. Arnold Edinborough, Editor of *Saturday Night* and one member of the Readers' Club Selection Committee, views the Commission's recommendations with considerable approval; but Robert Weaver, editor of *Tamarack Review* and also a member of our Selection Committee, feels that Mr. O'Leary's recommendations are no solution at all to the problems of Canada's embattled magazines. Meanwhile, of course, both sides of the debate have a faintly unreal aura because the Federal Government, as yet, taken no action on the Commission's basic recommendation on the removal of tax deductions for corporations advertising in the Canadian *Time* or *Readers' Digest*.

* * *

However, the magazine world is not waiting quietly. Here's evidence. Two new Canadian magazines will go on sale this autumn, both coming from Montreal. Of the two, *Exchange* edited by Steven Vizinczei is commercially the less ambitious. Mr. Vizinczei promises us by the end of September an "uninhibited literary and political magazine" modelled on Stephen Spender's *Encounter*. *Exchange* will be a quarterly "Canadian review of contemporary thought" containing about eighty pages. It will appear from 1559 Pine Avenue West, Montreal, P.Q. (Note that address if you want to be an original subscriber.) The magazine will contain

stories, poems and book reviews but in addition each issue will have a special theme. The first issue will be built around French Canada, the second around Nuclear Disarmament.

The second new venture is a news magazine called *Canada Month*. Published by a Montreal group headed by Patrick Hailstone and Daniel E. Woodward. The first regular issue of *Canada Month* is scheduled for October 7th, but a "forerunner" issue — a kind of demonstration for potential advertisers and subscribers — has been on sale since the beginning of July.

The new magazine's editorial position is stated plainly. In the lead editorial we read, "our thoughtful choice . . . would be for vigorous, self-reliant free enterprise", and reference in the same editorial is made to "the narcotic of socialism". But the rest of this forty-page "forerunner" scotches any fears that this might be a Birchist hate-sheet. True, there is an article by Rodney Leach against the nuclear disarms. But there is also an article opposing Latin American strong men of all persuasions. And there are ideologically neutral pieces, too — a cheerful profile of Canada's only artistic bronze founder, a well-researched explanation of the internal conflicts of B.C.'s Doukhobor communities, and an approving piece on architect Irving Grossman's attempts to separate cars and people in Toronto's new Flemingdon Park development. This of course is only a sampling; there are many other articles in this first issue. Allan Fleming's design doesn't quite come off, and the prose style used throughout seems contrived, but *Canada Month* is off to a brave start. The address is: Box 202, Montreal 3, Que.

AND REVIEWS

Following on the success of his study of William Lyon MacKenzie in *The Firebrand*, William Kilbourn has established himself in the modern school of non-fiction writers that combine scholarship with a flair for popular narrative, description and comment on the current scene. He has done so in the surprising field of

company history with his latest book, *The Elements Combined* (Clarke, Irwin, \$6.50) commissioned by the Steel Company of Canada to celebrate its silver jubilee. Besides being an epic narrative of Canadian industrial history, this book reveals the same qualities of lyricism and dramatic writing that were so successful

in *The Firebrand*. It moves from John Bigelow's little nail factory in Montreal and John Fisher's foundry in Hamilton to the Montreal and Ontario Rolling Mill Companies, and on to the great merger of 1910 that created Stelco. Then come the dramatic roles of the company in the two world wars and the equally dramatic account of the Great Strike of 1946. The "heroes" emerge from Kilbourn's pen in rapid strokes: Randolph Hersey, Charles Wilcox, first president of Stelco, Robert Hobson, first general manager, Max Aitken, the young catalyser of 1910, and Ross McMaster, the second president. The background is vivid with the colours of Canadian industrial growth, the impact and challenge of American technology, high finance in Montreal, Toronto, New York and London, the industrial exigencies of wartime, and the social and political growth of the Canadian nation.

The lyric quality, suitably subdued, appears notably in the introduction, in the description of modern steel-making and of the Stelco works at Hamilton. It is used charmingly elsewhere to evoke a total scene as in the passage describing the classical beginnings in Montreal: "An obscure smith in a colonial river-town — the ringing of his iron half drowned by parish bells, blowing with leather bellows the red coals to white, wheeling the produce of his forge to the local regiment's farrier or to a wealthy merchant's store . . ."

The volume is further enhanced by a number of helpful appendices on historical and technological matters, some statistical charts and tables, and a good bibliography. Rosemary Kilbourn's wood engravings underline the fact that this book makes a fine addition to a library of Canadians.

ALAN G. MACPHERSON

* * *

The business of teaching sex to children has long reigned supreme in many homes as the most difficult teaching problem going. Miss E. Margaret Clarkson, Toronto schoolteacher and writer, may have taken the burden from some of these troubled parents. *Susie's Babies* (Evangelical Publishers, \$2.50), Miss Clarkson's newest book for children, is the story of a hamster belonging to a classroom of twenty-five children, and her

pregnancy from conception to the weaning of her young. The story of Susie and the classroom is the bright coloured package in which the story of sex is very carefully wrapped.

Miss Watson, the teacher of the story, arrives in school one morning and announces to her delighted class that their pet is going to have babies. From this point the author (with the help of Susie) gingerly bats the questions and answers back and forth until marriage, conception, pregnancy, birth and care of the newborn are explained in a simple, understandable way.

Relying heavily on the Christian point of view to see it over the more difficult spots (difference between mating and marriage, birth pains) *Susie's Babies* faithfully follows the mother hamster through her brief 16 days of gestation and watches the tiny new hamsters grow from the feebleness of the newborn to the strength of the self-sufficient animal.

It seems rather a shame that writers writing about sex for children feel that they have to dress up the subject so that it doesn't really show. Miss Clarkson has clothed the story of Susie in the flimsy outer garment of teacher and classroom but still she is to be praised for the nonsense manner in which the bare bones of her material are presented. *Susie's Babies* may leave a child with many additional questions for parent or teacher but, unlike most books on the subject, it won't leave the child in any doubt about what he has been taught.

JANET LUNN

* * *

Gregory Clark must be a hard man to live with.

Whether he is telling about the time the boys gave up dice to gamble on the regularity of his snores, or the day his millionaire friend covered a neighbour's lawn with garbage, he does it with the smoothness of a man who simply cannot be trusted.

But as Canada's best known and best loved old verbal confidence man, Gregory Clark has done it again. *Greg's Choice* (Ryerson, \$3.50) is the kind of book you can't ever really forget. After you have read it and put it in the bookcase, a Clark insight suddenly comes to life. You search out the book, pick out the story and read

it again. By the time you've finished reading just one more, the afternoon is shot, the lawn remains unmowed and the screens still haven't been put up.

Supper may not even be ready, because Greg's stories are best when they are read aloud and what wife wants to go on working when she is being read to?

We would suggest, therefore, that you do *not* buy this book unless you have a full and uninterrupted afternoon to devote to it, and unless you are prepared to give it your undivided attention, cover to cover.

ROGER SCHWASS

* * *

The Living Land (Macmillan, \$7.50) is a remarkable book, conceived, written, designed, illustrated and printed in British Columbia—and issued on quality paper made in the province for this occasion. The book was commissioned by the British Columbia Natural Resources Conference, an independent, non-profit-making organization concerned for the natural

heritage and wealth of the province, to mark the fourteenth year of its investigations. Avoiding the pitfalls of an anthology of papers, the Conference invited Roderick Haig-Brown to write the text, a task which he has performed in a wonderfully lucid, evocative and uncompromising manner. The topics range from forest, agricultural, energy, and mineral resources to the problems of management of recreational land, pollution, and people—both aboriginal and immigrant. The credit for the superb designing of the book goes to Robert R. Reid of Vancouver in general format, typography and illustration. There are 24 pages of colour plates, innumerable half-tones and line-drawings, and a delightful series of woodcuts and sketches by Thomas Brayshaw and Keith C. Smith. The price is extraordinary. The book is certainly one of the most beautiful ever published in Canada.

ALAN G. MACPHERSON

MONEY AND HOW TO SAVE IT

Being alert, intelligent folk, Readers' Club members realize that, while money isn't everything, it's lots. Being alert, intelligent and compassionate book-club-managers we find by searching membership records that many Club members could increase their savings on purchases through the Club even beyond the generous price-reductions always available on Club Selections and Alternates. How? Here's how:

Keep a credit in your account. If your membership account has more money in it than the price of the books you are buying at any given time, then we waive the 35 cent handling and shipping charge on your purchases. Less bookkeeping for us and our bank manager stays happy. Your savings amount to an additional five or ten percent.

Write us big cheques. Don't just prepay for each book as you order it; write us a cheque for \$10.00 or \$25.00 to take care of your future purchases for months ahead. Again, you save the 35 cent shipping charge on each book—and you save the 15 cents or more exchange or service charge on those extra cheques you don't have to write any more (and our bank manager is even happier).

Put everything in one envelope. Suppose in a given month that you want to send us both a reply card and a payment. We give you a different envelope for each, but that's just our extravagant generosity. You can send back reply card and cheque in one envelope and save 5 cents postage. In five years and three months, you will have saved enough to buy a copy of *The Luck of Ginger Coffey* (work it out). Besides, this thoughtful practice will save our Mrs. Harper from the threat of an overdeveloped right bicep as a result of slashing open so many envelopes on our new, brute-force envelope-slasher.

MOSSWORD

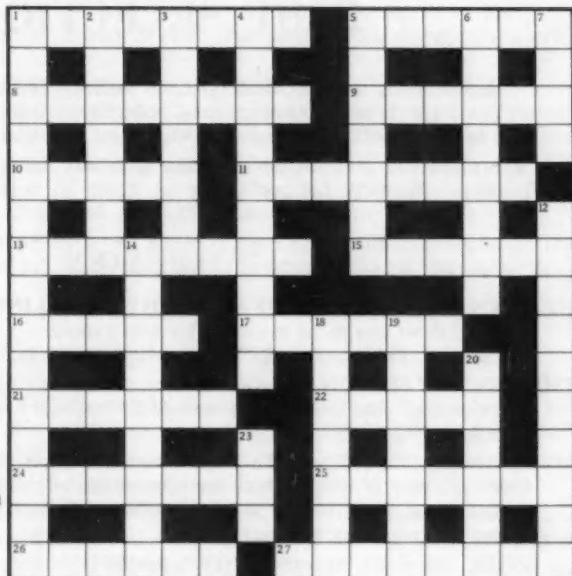
NUMBER

TWO

by

SYLVIA MOSS

MOSSWORD WINNER:
Mrs. Milton Eaton
of Shawinigan, Quebec,
will receive a copy of
B. K. Sandwell's
Diversions of Duchesstown
for submitting the most
nearly correct solution to
Mossword Number One.



ACROSS

- 1, 5 Empress of India appeared in two Canadian cities (8, 6)
- 8 See 6
- 9 Botanical organ grows in street. So be it! (6)
- 10 Final amount conceals Texan defeat (5)
- 11 Period of time finishes off a short-lived thing (8)
- 13 Flower precedes when the admiral is on board (8)
- 15 Carpenter's tool puts an end to childish writing (6)
- 16 Jack be nimble? (5)
- 17 Shaken damson falls to wanderers (6)
- 21 Edward consumed gin and dyed! (6)
- 22 "And all the ----s on the hills
Have turned their green to red"
(Carman) (5)
- 24 Id is disturbed by globe but did a favour (7)
- 25 Backward soldier trailed by a non-Communist took no notice (7)
- 26, 27 What Dick Whittington sought in London, was found in a Canadian novel (6, 2, 6)

DOWN

- 1 Mathematical term is divided into common parts (6, 9)
- 2 Preserve thanks for song (7)
- 3 "Nymph in thy ----- Be all my sins remembered." (Hamlet) (7)
- 4 Tiring need disturbed the component (10)
- 5 With love the lists would be strictly for the birds! (7)
- 6, 8 Cleopatra's lasting wishes (8, 8)
- 7 Indian coin or Karenina? (4)
- 12 Basic ideal is shattered by the Greek politician (10)
- 14 When French frost starts to meet Latin fire the result is highly explosive (9)
- 18 What sounds like a parental argument is really the occupant of the dog-house (7)
- 19 Deem tin to be cause of denial of rumour (7)
- 20 Disc orchestra recording, like Nero, to burn (6)
- 23 If top is torn, the trouble becomes stormy (3)

CONTEST: the authors of each of the first three correct answers received for Mossword Number Two will receive a copy of Kenneth McNeil Wells' *The Owl Pen*. Send solutions to Mosswords, c/o Readers' Club, Box 507, Station F, Toronto 5, Ontario, before August 15, 1961.

PAST SELECTIONS

Past Selections of the Readers' Club remain available to Club members at special members' Prices. Members may order any of these books in place of or in addition to this month's Selection or Alternate.

The Club will also supply members with any other book in print at regular retail prices—no charge for postage.

F I C T I O N

HEAR US O LORD FROM HEAVEN THY DWELLING PLACE. A collection of unusual short stories by the late Malcolm Lowry — a major literary sensation of the season. Published at \$5.75. Member's price \$4.50.

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CANADIANS IN THE MAKING. A. R. M. Lower's disturbing analysis of our civilization and how it got to be that way. Published at \$8.50. Members' price \$6.50.

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CONTEMPORARY AFFAIRS

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PEACEMAKER OR POWDER-MONKEY by James M. Minifie, an authoritative and passionate argument for a neutralist foreign policy for Canada and **THE TRUE FACE OF DUPLESSIS** by Pierre Laporte, the best-selling informal biography of Quebec's late strong man. A Dual Selection. Published at \$3.50 each. Member's price for both books \$5.50. (These titles may be had individually at retail price.)

CONTEMPORARY CANADA by Miriam Chapin. A friendly American journalist looks at our country without the usual rosy glasses. Published at \$7.50. Member's price \$5.50.

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THE DESPERATE PEOPLE by Farley Mowat. A hard-hitting account of the Eskimo's misery and Canada's shame. Published at \$5.00. Member's price \$4.00.

BIOGRAPHY

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE: CLEAR GRIT. Dale C. Thomson's brilliant biographical rediscovery of Canada's least-remembered Prime Minister. Published at \$6.75. Member's price \$5.25.

MY OTHER ISLANDS. Evelyn M. Richardson's charmingly nostalgic account of her childhood in Nova Scotia's off-shore islands. Published at \$4.50. Members' price \$3.50.

DAYS OF LIVING by Martin Roher. A young man's search for the meaning of life while he was dying of an incurable disease. Published at \$4.00. Member's price \$3.15.

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